three years, with details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) During the period 1.1.91 to 31.11.91, in all 1673 chartered buses which have been prosecuted have had fines levied upon them.

(b) and(c). Checking and penalties provided in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Rules framed thereunder have an impact on the erring permit holders.

(d) The chartered buses operate under contract carriage permits issued under Section 74 of the M.V. Act, 1988.

(e) No objections have been filed by the DTC with the Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration during the last 3 years.

Export of Agricultural Products, Diamonds and Pearls

2508. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the export of agricultural products, polished diamonds and pearls; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost their export?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b). There is a good scope for the export of agricultural products and diamonds. The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. REP licences have been replaced by a new instrument named Exim Scrips. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of imports of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government has decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency accounts in approved banks and allow exporters to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussion with selected countries, interaction with national organisations of trade industry, etc.

Export Policy in respect of certain agricultural commodities have been liberalised by shifting of items allowed for export under OGL, and also by de-controlling the export of selected agricultural commodities. The exchange trade adjustments will benefit agricultural exports also.

For boosting export of diamonds, Government has taken measures to facilitate availability of raw material, grant of replenishment facility ranging between 65% and 90% of FOB value of exports depending upon the carat realisation.

Rouble and Rupee Credits Held by USSR against India

2509. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts of Rouble and Rupee credits held by USSR against India as on January 1, 1991; and

(b) the details of the agreements entered into with USSR regarding these credits, their nature, additions, disbursement, repayment etc?